

What is claimed is:

1 1. A feed formulation for gestating and lactating
2 swine comprising carnitine in an amount effective to increase
3 at least one of the following: number of pigs per litter,
4 litter weaning weight, and pig weaning weight.

1 2. The formulation of claim 1 wherein the carnitine
2 is L-carnitine or a salt thereof.

1 3. The formulation of claim 1 wherein the amount of
2 carnitine is from about 5 to about 5,000 ppm of the feed.

1 4. The formulation of claim 1 wherein the amount of
2 carnitine is from about 5 to about 200 ppm of the feed.

1 5. The formulation of claim 1 further comprising
2 from about 12% to about 30% by weight of crude protein.

1 6. A method for feeding gestating and lactating
2 swine comprising feeding a diet comprising carnitine in an
3 amount effective to increase at least one of the following:
4 number of pigs per litter, litter weaning weight, and pig
5 weaning weight.

1 7. The method of claim 6 wherein the carnitine is
2 L-carnitine or a salt thereof.

1 8. The method of claim 6 wherein the amount of
2 carnitine is from about 5 to about 5,000 ppm of the feed.

1 9. The method of claim 6 wherein the amount of
2 carnitine is from about 5 to about 200 ppm of the feed.

1 10. The method of claim 6 wherein the diet further
2 comprises from about 12% to about 30% by weight of crude
3 protein.

1 11. A method for increasing pork productivity
2 comprising the steps of:
3 (a) supplementing a swine diet with an effective
4 amount of carnitine, and
5 (b) feeding the supplemented diet to swine during
6 the period of gestation, lactation or both.

1 12. The method of claim 11 wherein the pork
2 productivity is increased by increasing at least one of the
3 following: number of pigs per litter, litter weaning weight,
4 and pig weaning weight.

1 13. The method of claim 11 wherein the carnitine is
2 L-carnitine or a salt thereof.

1 14. The method of claim 11 wherein the effective
2 amount of carnitine is from about 5 to about 5,000 ppm of the
3 feed.

1 15. The method of claim 11 wherein the effective
2 amount of carnitine is from about 50 to about 200 ppm of the
3 feed.

1 16. The method of claim 11 wherein the gestating and
2 lactating swine diet comprises from about 12% to about 30% by
3 weight of crude protein.